Malnutrition in children

483. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Nutrition Week was organized from the 1st to 7th September, 2005;

(b) if so, the programmes launched during this week for checking malnutrition in various parts of the country;

(c) the number of persons, including children who have died due to malnutrition in various parts of the country during last three years, year-wise and till date; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to check malnutrition and ensure supply of nutritious food and medicines to malnourished children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The activities undertaken by the Department of Women & Child Development during the National Nutrition Week included:—

- State level workshops on nutrition;
- Nutrition awareness campaign through print and electronic media;
- Nutrition exhibitions, video shows, healthy baby shows, essay competitions on nutrition etc.

(c) The details of number of deaths due to malnutrition are not being centrally maintained. However, malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of all deaths.

(d) The steps taken to address the problem of malnutrition, *inter-alia* include:-

- Supplementary feeding programme through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.
- National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Programme).
- Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

- National Prophylaxis Programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency.
- National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme.
- Universal Immunization Programme.
- National Diarrhoea Control Programme.
- National Acute Respiratory Disease Control Programme.
- Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life.
- Targeted Public Distribution System.
- Nutrition Education Programmes of Food & Nutrition Board.
- Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts.

Right to education

484. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Right to Education Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the draft of the Right to Education Bill was sent to the States for seeking their comments;

(d) if so, the nature of the opinion received from the States thereon;

(e) whether opinion of the State Governments have been incorporated in the Bill, which has been approved;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A draft of the legislation envisaged under Article 21A of the Constitution has been prepared on the basis of recommendations of a